

Basic Searching, Interpolating, and Curve-Fitting Algorithms in C++

by Robert J Yager

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1. Introduction

This report documents a set of functions, written in C++, that can be used to perform interpolations (nearest-neighbor, linear, and cubic) and to find coefficients for best-fit equations. Functions for working with periodic equations are included.

Measurements can be taken and stored using a variety of schemes. The interpolations described in this report are designed to work with data sets where measured values for all independent and dependent variables are explicitly stored. Furthermore, for data that has more than 1 independent variable, the measurements must all lie on some type of rectangular grid, where all grid locations are populated.

When measurements do not lie on some type of rectangular grid, interpolations become more difficult. For those types of data sets, KD-trees can be used to perform efficient nearest-neighbor searches, which can act as interpolations. The yKDTree namespace¹ can be used to work with KD-trees using C++.

The yBilinear namespace² can be used for the special case of data sets with 2 independent variables, where all measurements lie on a rectangular grid, all grid locations are populated, and all grid lines are evenly spaced.

The functions that are described in this report have been grouped into the yInterp namespace, which is summarized at the end of this report. The yInterp namespace relies exclusively on standard C++ operations and functions. However, example code that is included in this report makes use of the yRandom namespace³ for generating pseudorandom numbers, the yBmp namespace⁴ for creating images, and the yIo2⁵ namespace for reading and parsing text files.

2. Background

My motivation for this project began with a task that involved interpolating a look-up table with 8 independent variables, some of which were periodic. Prior to this project, I had always written interpolators on an ad hoc basis. However, the thought of having to deal with an array that requires 8 indices to access a particular element (something like A[i][j][k][l][m][n][o][p]) convinced me that I needed a more formal set of tools.

The task required that all code be written in C++. To maximize portability, the code had to be written without the use of any platform-specific or C++11 tools. Performance was a priority. In addition, I wanted a versatile set of tools that I could use for future projects. The tools needed to

be simple to use and well-tested so that I could feel comfortable sharing them with other programmers.

3. Searching Sorted Arrays: The BinarySearch() Function

The BinarySearch() function uses a binary search algorithm to search arrays that are sorted into ascending order. For arrays that do not contain duplicate entries, the BinarySearch() function can be used to find a pointer **c** such that

$$*\mathbf{c} \le \mathbf{k} < *(\mathbf{c}+1),\tag{1}$$

where \mathbf{k} is key on which the search is based.

For arrays that contain duplicate entries, Eq. 1 needs to be slightly modified:

$$*\mathbf{c} \le \mathbf{k} \le *(\mathbf{c}+1). \tag{2}$$

Thus, if \mathbf{k} is equal to an element that has one or more duplicates, \mathbf{c} may point to any one of the duplicates.

Performance for the BinarySearch() function is $O(\log(n))$, which is demonstrated in Section 3.7.

3.1 BinarySearch() Code

3.2 BinarySearch() Template Class

T must be a sortable data type.

3.3 BinarySearch() Parameters

- **a** points to the beginning of the array that will be searched. The array should be sorted into ascending order.
- b points to one element past the end of the array that will be searched. Thus, b is used to define the end of the search region but is not included in the search. b should be greater than a.
- **k** is the key on which the search is based.

3.4 BinarySearch() Return Value

For arrays that do not contain duplicate entries, the BinarySearch() function returns a pointer to the greatest array element that is less than or equal to **k**. If **k** is less than the least array element, then **a**-1 is returned. Care needs to be taken when accessing the return pointer, since **a**-1 may not point to a valid address.

3.5 BinarySearch() Simple Example

The following example uses the BinarySearch() function to search a small sorted array that contains duplicates.

OUTPUT:

```
X = \{30, 40, 41, 42, 42, 42, 42, 43, 44, 45, 50\}
 *c | KEY | *(c+1) | INDEX
        28 l
                           -1
        29 l
                 30
                          -1
        30 I
                           0
 30
                 40
 30
        31 |
                 40
                            0
        32 |
                            0
 30
                 40
 30
        33
                 40
                            0
 30
        34 l
                 40
                            0
                            0
 30
        35 l
                 40
                            0
 30
        36
                 40
 30
        37
                 40
                            0
 30
        38
                 40
                            0
        39
                            0
 30
                 40
 40
        40
                 41
                            1
 41
        41
                 42
                            2
 42
        42
                 42
                            5
                 44
                            7
 43
        43
                            8
 44
        44
                 45
 45 l
        45
                 50
                            9
                            9
 45
        46
                 50
 45
                            9
        47
                 50
                            9
 45
        48
                 50
 45
        49 |
                 50
                           9
 50
        50 |
                          10
                 - -
 50
        51
```

3.6 BinarySearch() Text Example

The following example uses the BinarySearch() function to determine where a word should be inserted into a sorted list.

OUTPUT:

```
defective, defend, defendant, defender, defense, defensive

The word defenestrate should be between defender and defense.
```

3.7 BinarySearch() Performance

The following example begins by using the yRandom namespace to populate an array with 2¹⁴ pseudorandom numbers using the Mersenne twister 19937 algorithm. The array is then sorted using the sort() function. Average search times are calculated for searches performed using a linear search algorithm and the BinarySearch() function. Figure 1 presents a graph of the results.

The average search time for the LinearSearch() function is O(n). The average search time for the BinarySearch() function is $O(\log(n))$.

```
#include <algorithm>//.....sort()
#include <cstdio>//......printf()
#include <ctime>//......clock(),CLOCKS PER SEC
#include "y_interp.h"//.....yInterp
#include "y_random.h"//.....yRandom
template<class T>T*LinearSearch(//<=======FIND THE POINTER c | *c <= k < *(c+1)
   T*a,T*b,//<---ARRAY START & END POINTS (ARRAY MUST BE SORTED IN INC. ORDER)
   T k){//<-----KEY
 if(k<*a)return a-1;//.....note that a-1 may point to an invalid address</pre>
 while(k<*--b);/*->*/return b;
}//~~~~YAGENAUT@GMAIL.COM~~~~~~~~~~~LAST~UPDATED~21JUL2014~~~~~
int main(){//<=======PERFORMANCE TEST FOR THE yInterp::BinarySearch() FUNCTION</pre>
 const int N=16384,M=10000000;//...max # of elements in array, # of repetitions
 unsigned I[625];/*<-*/yRandom::Initialize(I,1);//....state of Mersenne twister</pre>
 double*X=new double[N];/*<-*/for(int i=0;i<N;++i)X[i]=yRandom::RandU(I,0,N);</pre>
 std::sort(X,X+N);//....X is a sorted, unchanging list of numbers to search
           | linear search | binary search\n");
size |-----\n");
 printf("
 printf("
 printf(" of | search | index | search | index\n");
printf(" array | time (s) | average | time (s) | average\n");
 printf(" -----\n");
 for(int m=2;m<16385;m*=2){</pre>
   printf("%8d | ",m),yRandom::Initialize(I,1);
   double y=0,z=0,t=clock();
   for(int i=0;i<M;++i)y+=LinearSearch(X,X+m,yRandom::RandU(I,0,m))-X;</pre>
   printf("%8.3f |%12.6f |",(clock()-t)/CLOCKS PER SEC,y/M),t=clock();
   yRandom::Initialize(I,1);
   for(int i=0;i<M;++i)z+=yInterp::BinarySearch(X,X+m,yRandom::RandU(I,0,m))-X;</pre>
   printf("%8.3f |%12.6f\n",(clock()-t)/CLOCKS_PER_SEC,z/M);}
}//~~~~YAGENAUT@GMAIL.COM~~~~~~~~~~~~~LAST~UPDATED~21JUL2014~~~~~
```

OUTPUT:

	linear search		binary search	
size				
of	search	index	search	index
array	time (s)	average	time (s)	average
2	0.140	-0.731079	0.125	-0.731079
4	0.140	0.555495	0.156	0.555495
8	0.203	1.833760	0.224	1.833760
16	0.244	5.133788	0.234	5.133788
32	0.312	13.015384	0.327	13.015384
64	0.390	31.287311	0.359	31.287311
128	0.531	66.159459	0.421	66.159459
256	0.936	128.260683	0.530	128.260683
512	1.545	258.242078	0.592	258.242078
1024	2.902	519.408822	0.671	519.408822
2048	5.678	1035.587832	0.733	1035.587832
4096	11.217	2054.054591	0.795	2054.054591
8192	22.142	4091.340401	0.873	4091.340401
16384	43.945	8193.415153	0.968	8193.415153

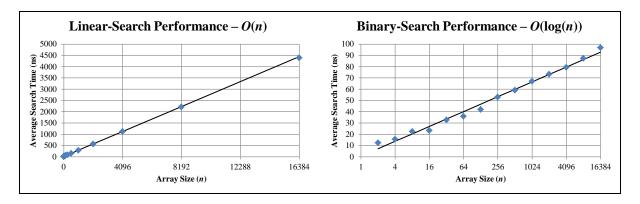


Fig. 1 Performance for linear and binary searches (right graph is semi-log)

4. Searching Sorted Arrays: The PeriodicSearch() Function

The PeriodicSearch() function uses the BinarySearch() function to search arrays that are associated with periodic functions, such as f, where

$$f(x+np) = f(x). (3)$$

Thus, the PeriodicSearch() function can be used to find a pointer c such that

$$*\mathbf{c} \le \mathbf{k} + n\mathbf{p} < *(\mathbf{c}+1),\tag{4}$$

where **k** and **p** are user supplied values and the integer n is chosen such that

$$*\mathbf{a} \le \mathbf{k} + n\mathbf{p} < *\mathbf{a} + \mathbf{p}. \tag{5}$$

4.1 PeriodicSearch() Code

4.2 PeriodicSearch() Template Class

T must be a sortable data type.

4.3 PeriodicSearch() Parameters

a points to the beginning of the array that will be searched. The array should be sorted into ascending order.

- b points to one element past the end of the array that will be searched. Thus, b is used to define the end of the search region but is not included in the search.
 b should be greater than a.
- **k** is the key on which the search is based. Note that before the function returns, **k** is set to k', where $k' = \mathbf{k} + n\mathbf{p}$.
- **p** is the period of the function associated with the array. Values for **p** are typically chosen such that $\mathbf{p} > *(\mathbf{b}-1) *\mathbf{a}$. In no case should **p** be equal to zero.

4.4 PeriodicSearch() Return Value

The PeriodicSearch() function returns a pointer that satisfies the requirements for \mathbf{c} in Eq. 4.

4.5 PeriodicSearch() Example

The following example begins by creating a pair of arrays that are used to store independent and dependent variables that approximate Eq. 6.

$$y(x) = \sin(2\pi x/5) + 1.$$
(6)

The BinarySearch() and PeriodicSearch() functions are then used to retrieve dependent variables based on a selection of independent variables. Figure 2 presents a pair of graphs that display the results of the searches.

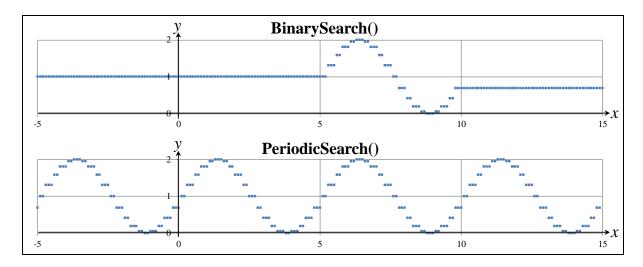


Fig. 2 A comparison of the Search() and PeriodicSearch() functions

5. Performing Nearest-Neighbor Interpolations: The NNInterp() Function

Suppose that some function y(x) is represented by a finite set of points (x_i, y_i) , such as is shown in Fig. 3.

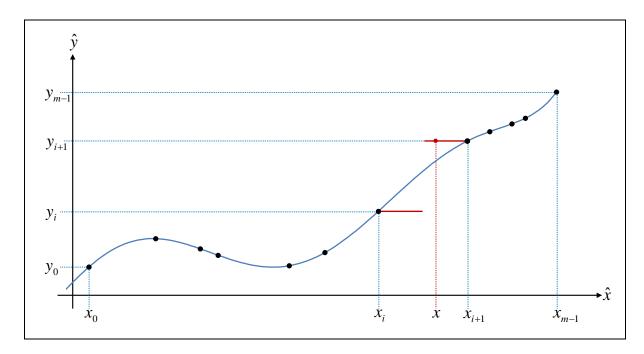


Fig. 3 y(x) represented by a finite number of points, with nearest-neighbor interpolation shown in red

The NNInterp() function uses Eq. 7, represented by the solid red line in Fig. 3, to approximate y(x):

$$y(x) = \begin{cases} y_{i+1} & \text{for } x > \frac{x_i + x_{i+1}}{2} \\ y_i & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$
 (7)

5.1 NNInterp() Code

5.2 NNInterp() Template Class

T is typically a floating-point data type.

5.3 NNInterp() Parameters

- **X X** points to an array that is used to store values for x_i from Eq. 7. Specifically, $*\mathbf{X} = x_i$ and $\mathbf{X}[1] = x_{i+1}$. Thus, both **X** and $\mathbf{X}+1$ must point to valid addresses.
- **Y** Points to an array that is used to store values for y_i from Eq. 7. Specifically, $*\mathbf{Y} = y_i$ and $\mathbf{Y}[1] = y_{i+1}$. Thus, both **Y** and **Y**+1 must point to valid addresses.
- \mathbf{x} \mathbf{x} represents the independent variable x from Eq. 7.

5.4 NNInterp() Return Value

The NNInterp() function returns y from Eq. 7.

5.5 NNInterp() Simple Example

The following example begins by creating a pair of arrays that are used to store independent and dependent variables that approximate Eq. 6. Next, the BinarySearch() function is used to find a pointer that conforms to Eq. 1, which is then converted to an index. Finally, the NNInterp() function is used to approximate y(7.180).

Note that the value for the BinarySearch() parameter \mathbf{a} is set to $\mathbf{X}+1$ to avoid the possibility of accessing the $\mathbf{X}-1$ element. Similarly, the value for the BinarySearch() parameter \mathbf{b} is set to $\mathbf{X}+19$ to avoid the possibility of accessing the $\mathbf{X}+20$ element.

OUTPUT:

```
At x=7.180, y is approximately 1.309.
```

6. Performing Linear Interpolations: The LinInterp() Function

Suppose that some function y(x) is represented by a finite set of points (x_i, y_i) , such as is shown in Fig. 4.

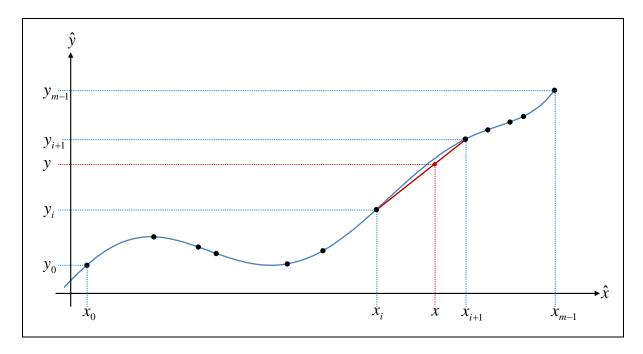


Fig. 4 y(x) represented by a finite number of points, with linear interpolation shown in red

The LinInterp() function uses Eq. 8, represented by the solid red line in Fig. 4, to approximate y(x):

$$y(x) = y_i + (y_{i+1} - y_i) \frac{x - x_i}{x_{i+1} - x_i}.$$
 (8)

6.1 LinInterp() Code

6.2 LinInterp() Template Class

T is typically a floating-point data type.

6.3 LinInterp() Parameters

- **X X** points to an array that is used to store values for x_i from Eq. 8. Specifically, $*\mathbf{X} = x_i$ and $\mathbf{X}[1] = x_{i+1}$. Thus, both **X** and $\mathbf{X}+1$ must point to valid addresses.
- **Y Y** points to an array that is used to store values for y_i from Eq. 8. Specifically, $*\mathbf{Y} = y_i$ and $\mathbf{Y}[1] = y_{i+1}$. Thus, both **Y** and $\mathbf{Y}+1$ must point to valid addresses.
- **x x** represents the independent variable *x* from Eq. 8.

6.4 LinInterp() Return Value

The LinInterp() function returns y from Eq. 8.

6.5 LinInterp() Simple Example

The following example begins by creating a pair of arrays that are used to store independent and dependent variables that approximate Eq. 6. Next, the BinarySearch() function is used to find a pointer that conforms to Eq. 1, which it then converted to an index. Finally, the LinInterp() function is used to approximate y(7.180).

Note that the value for the BinarySearch() parameter \mathbf{a} is set to $\mathbf{X}+1$ to avoid the possibility of accessing the $\mathbf{X}-1$ element. Similarly, the value for the BinarySearch() parameter \mathbf{b} is set to $\mathbf{X}+19$ to avoid the possibility of accessing the $\mathbf{X}+20$ element.

OUTPUT:

```
At x=7.180, y is approximately 1.387.
```

7. Performing Cubic Interpolations: The CubeInterp() Function

A cubic Hermite spline is a third-degree-polynomial interpolating function that is uniquely determined by 2 endpoint positions (\vec{p}_0 and \vec{p}_1) and tangent vectors at the 2 endpoint positions (\vec{m}_0 and \vec{m}_1 , respectively):

$$\vec{p}(t) = H_0(t)\vec{p}_0 + H_1(t)\vec{m}_0 + H_2(t)\vec{p}_1 + H_3(t)\vec{m}_1. \tag{9}$$

 $H_0(t)$, $H_1(t)$, $H_2(t)$, and $H_3(t)$ are known as Hermite basis functions and are given by Eqs. 10–13. t is the linearly scaled distance from \vec{p}_0 to \vec{p}_1 such that at \vec{p}_0 , t=0 and at \vec{p}_1 , t=1.

$$H_0(t) = 2t^3 - 3t^2 + 1. (10)$$

$$H_1(t) \equiv t^3 - 2t^2 + t. \tag{11}$$

$$H_2(t) = -2t^3 + 3t^2. (12)$$

$$H_3(t) \equiv t^3 - t^2. {13}$$

Suppose that some function y(x) is represented by a finite set of points (x_i, y_i) , such as is shown in Fig. 5.

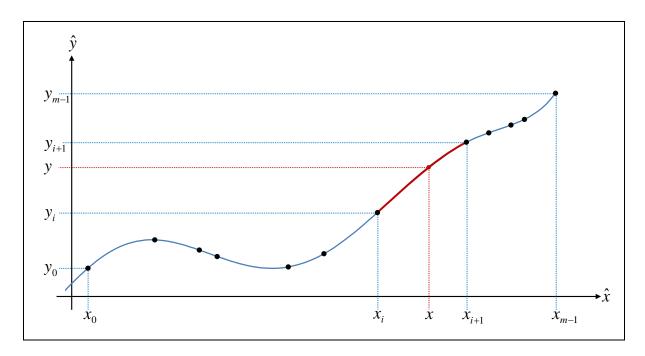


Fig. 5 y(x) represented by a finite number of points, with cubic interpolation shown in red

From Eq. 9 (and noting that $H_0(t) = 1 - H_2(t)$),

$$y(t) = H_1(t)\frac{dy}{dt}\Big|_{t=0} + H_2(t)(y_{i+1} - y_i) + H_3(t)\frac{dy}{dt}\Big|_{t=1} + y_i,$$
(14)

Eq. 15 can be used to convert from the scaled independent variable t to the general independent variable x.

$$t = \frac{x - x_i}{x_{i+1} - x_i} \,. \tag{15}$$

Eq. 16, along with the chain rule, can be used to convert the derivatives.

$$\frac{dt}{dx} = \frac{1}{x_{i+1} - x_i} \,. \tag{16}$$

Thus,

$$\frac{dy}{dt}\Big|_{t=0} = (x_{i+1} - x_i)m_i,$$
(17)

and

$$\frac{dy}{dt}\bigg|_{t=1} = (x_{i+1} - x_i)m_{i+1}, \tag{18}$$

where

$$m_i = \frac{dy}{dx}\Big|_{x=x_i} \,. \tag{19}$$

Substituting Eqs. 11–13, 17, and 18 into Eq. 14, then regrouping terms, results in the form of the cubic interpolating function that is used by the CubeInterp() function:

$$y = y_i + (x - x_i)[\{(m_i + m_{i+1})t - (2m_i + m_{i+1})\}t + m_i] + (y_{i+1} - y_i)(3 - 2t)t^2.$$
(20)

7.1 CubeInterp() Code

7.2 CubeInterp() Template Class

T is typically a floating-point data type.

7.3 CubeInterp() Parameters

X X points to an array that is used to store values for x_i from Eq. 20. Specifically, $*\mathbf{X} = x_i$ and $\mathbf{X}[1] = x_{i+1}$. Thus, both **X** and $\mathbf{X}+1$ must point to valid addresses.

Y points to an array that is used to store values for y_i from Eq. 20. Specifically, $*\mathbf{Y} = y_i$ and $\mathbf{Y}[1] = y_{i+1}$. Thus, both **Y** and $\mathbf{Y}+1$ must point to valid addresses.

m0 represents m_i , the slope of the interpolating function at x_i .

m1 represents m_{i+1} , the slope of the interpolating function at x_{i+1} .

 \mathbf{x} \mathbf{x} represents the independent variable x from Eq. 20.

7.4 CubeInterp() Return Value

The CubeInterp() function returns y from Eq. 20.

7.5 CubeInterp() Simple Example

The following example begins by creating a pair of arrays that are used to store independent and dependent variables that approximate Eq. 6. Next, the BinarySearch() function is used to find a pointer that conforms to Eq. 1, which is then converted to an index. Finally, the CubeInterp()

function is used to approximate y(7.180). For simplicity, m_i and m_{i+1} have been set to zero. Section 8 presents a function that can be used to find values for m_i and m_{i+1} .

Note that the value for the BinarySearch() parameter \mathbf{a} is set to $\mathbf{X}+1$ to avoid the possibility of accessing the $\mathbf{X}-1$ element. Similarly, the value for the BinarySearch() parameter \mathbf{b} is set to $\mathbf{X}+19$ to avoid the possibility of accessing the $\mathbf{X}+20$ element.

OUTPUT:

```
At x=7.180, y is approximately 1.362.
```

8. Cardinal Splines: The Cardinal Slope() Function

The CardinalSlope() function uses Eq. 21 to calculate the CubeInterp()-function input parameters **m0** and **m1**.

$$m_{i} = (1-t)\frac{y_{i+1} - y_{i-1}}{x_{i+1} - x_{i-1}}.$$
 (21)

t is sometimes referred to as a tension parameter and is typically limited to the interval [0,1].

8.1 CardinalSlope() Code

8.2 CardinalSlope() Template Class

T is typically a floating-point data type.

8.3 CardinalSlope() Parameters

- **X X** points to an array that is used to store values for x_i from Eq. 21. Specifically, $\mathbf{X}[-1] = x_{i-1}$ and $\mathbf{X}[1] = x_{i+1}$. Thus, both \mathbf{X} -1 and \mathbf{X} +1 must point to valid addresses.
- **Y Y** points to an array that is used to store values for y_i from Eq. 21. Specifically, $\mathbf{Y}[-1] = y_{i-1}$ and $\mathbf{Y}[1] = y_{i+1}$. Thus, both \mathbf{Y} -1 and \mathbf{Y} +1 must point to valid addresses.
- t represents t, the tension parameter from Eq. 21.

Because the CardinalSlope() function looks at points to either side of the bracketing points, extra care needs to be taken when selecting \mathbf{X} and \mathbf{Y} .

8.4 CardinalSlope() Return Value

The CardinalSlope() function returns m_i from Eq. 21.

8.5 CardinalSlope() Simple Example

The following example begins by creating a pair of arrays that are used to store independent and dependent variables that approximate Eq. 6. Next, the BinarySearch() function is used to find a pointer that conforms to Eq. 1, which is then converted to an index. Finally, the CubeInterp() function is used to approximate y(7.180).

Note that the value for the BinarySearch() parameter \mathbf{a} has been set to $\mathbf{X}+1$ to avoid the possibility of accessing the $\mathbf{X}-1$ element. Similarly, the value for the BinarySearch() parameter \mathbf{b} has been set to $\mathbf{X}+19$ to avoid the possibility of accessing the $\mathbf{X}+20$ element.

OUTPUT:

```
At x=7.180, y is approximately 1.391.
```

9. Example: Comparing Interpolating Functions

The following example code creates a comma-separated text file that can be used to create the graph shown in Fig. 6. The plot relating to the CubeInterp() function relies on slopes that are calculated using the CardinalSlope() function (except for the endpoints, where the slopes are set to zero).

```
#include <cstdio>//.....freopen(),printf(),stdout
#include "y interp.h"//.....yInterp
int main(){//<=============COMPARISON BETWEEN VARIOUS INTERPOLATION FUNCTIONS
 freopen("interp.csv","w",stdout);//.....redirect output to a file
 double X[8]={2,7,13,19,22,23,28,37},Y[8]={2,6,6,2,9,5,4,7};
 double m[8]={0};/*<-*/for(int i=1;i<7;++i)</pre>
   m[i]=yInterp::CardinalSlope(X+i,Y+i,0.);
 printf("#x,y,x,y1,y2,y3\n");
 for(int k=0,n=20000;k<n;++k){</pre>
   double x=50/(n-1.)*k;
   int i=yInterp::BinarySearch(X+1,X+8-1,x)-X;//.....note 0>=i<=6</pre>
   double y1=yInterp::NNInterp(X+i,Y+i,x);
   double y2=yInterp::LinInterp(X+i,Y+i,x);
   double y3=yInterp::CubeInterp(X+i,Y+i,x,m[i],m[i+1]);
   k<8?printf("%f,%f,",X[k],Y[k]):printf("-,-,");
   printf("%f,%f,%f,%f\n",x,y1,y2,y3);}
  /~~~~~YAGENAUT@GMAIL.COM~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~LAST~UPDATED~21JUL2014~~~~
```

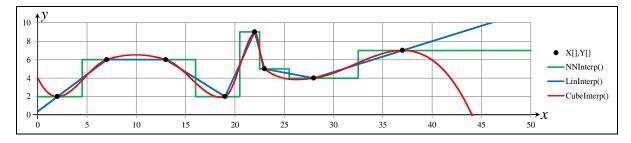


Fig. 6 Comparison of the NNInterp(), LinInterp(), and CubeInterp() functions

10. Example: Performing Periodic Interpolations

The following example code begins by setting up a set of points that are used to represent a periodic function with a period equal to 10.0. Next, the NNInterp(), LinInterp(), and CubInterp() functions are used to create values for a comma-separated text file. The graph shown in Fig. 7 represents the contents of the output file.

```
#include <cstdio>//.....freopen(),printf(),stdout
#include "y_interp.h"//.....yInterp
int main(){//<=====COMPARISON BETWEEN VARIOUS INTERPOLATION FUNCTIONS (PERIODIC)</pre>
 freopen("interp_periodic.csv","w",stdout);//....redirect output to a file
 double X[4]={10,14,16,18},Y[4]={6,2,9,5};
 double XP[7]={X[3]-10,X[0],X[1],X[2],X[3],X[0]+10,X[1]+10};
 double YP[7]={Y[3],Y[0],Y[1],Y[2],Y[3],Y[0],Y[1]};
 double m[5];/*<-*/for(int i=0;i<5;++i)</pre>
   m[i]=yInterp::CardinalSlope(XP+1+i,YP+1+i,0.);
 printf("#x,y,x,y1,y2,y3\n");
 int j=0;
 for(double x=-10,k;x<70;x+=.1,++j){
   int i=yInterp::PeriodicSearch(X,X+4,k=x,10.)-X;
   double y1=yInterp::NNInterp(XP+1+i,YP+1+i,k);
   double y2=yInterp::LinInterp(XP+1+i,YP+1+i,k);
   double y3=yInterp::CubeInterp(XP+1+i,YP+1+i,k,m[i],m[i+1]);
   j<4?printf("%f,%f,",X[j],Y[j]):printf("-,-,");
   printf("%f,%f,%f,%f\n",x,y1,y2,y3);}
}//~~~~YAGENAUT@GMAIL.COM~~~~~~~~~~~~~LAST~UPDATED~21JUL2014~~~~~
```

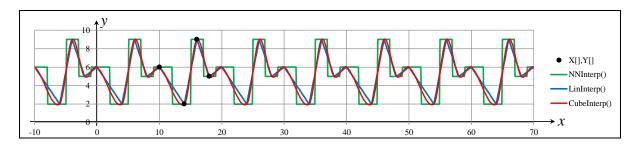


Fig. 7 NNInterp(), LinInterp(), and CubeInterp() functions used to create periodic plots

11. Example: Determining Interpolation Performance

The following example can be used to test the performance of the NNInterp(), LinInterp(), and CubeInterp() functions.

The output was generated by compiling the code using Microsoft's Visual Studio C++ 2010 Express compiler, with the output set to "release" mode. Surprisingly, for this scenario, the LinInterp() and CubeInterp() functions outperform the NNInterp() function.

```
#include <cstdio>//.....printf()
#include <ctime>//.....clock(),CLOCKS_PER_SEC
#include "y_interp.h"//.....yInterp
#include "y_random.h"//....yRandom
int main(){//<====PERFORMANCE COMPARISON BETWEEN VARIOUS INTERPOLATION FUNCTIONS</pre>
 const int N=100000000;
 double X[2]=\{0,1\},Y[2]=\{0,10\};
 unsigned I[625];/*<-*/yRandom::Initialize(I,1);//....state of Mersenne twister</pre>
 double R[N];/*<-*/for(int i=0;i<N;++i)R[i]=yRandom::RandU(I,0,1);</pre>
 double S=0,t=clock();
 for(int i=0;i<N;++i)S+=yInterp::NNInterp(X,Y,R[i]);</pre>
 printf("Using NNInterp():\n y_avg=%.6f,t_avg=%.2f ns\n\n",S/N,
   (clock()-t)/CLOCKS_PER_SEC/N*1E9),t=clock(),S=0;
 yRandom::Initialize(I,1);
 for(int i=0;i<N;++i)S+=yInterp::LinInterp(X,Y,R[i]);</pre>
 printf("Using LinInterp():\n y avg=%.6f,t avg=%.2f ns\n\n",S/N,
   (clock()-t)/CLOCKS_PER_SEC/N*1E9),t=clock(),S=0;
 yRandom::Initialize(I,1);
 for(int i=0;i<N;++i)S+=yInterp::CubeInterp(X,Y,R[i],10.,10.);</pre>
 printf("Using CubeInterp():\n y_avg=%.6f,t_avg=%.2f ns\n\n",S/N,
   (clock()-t)/CLOCKS PER SEC/N*1E9);
 //~~~~~YAGENAUT@GMATL.COM~~~~~~~~~~~~~~LAST~UPDATED~21JUL2014~~~~~
```

OUTPUT:

```
Using NNInterp():
    y_avg=4.999344,t_avg=4.52 ns

Using LinInterp():
    y_avg=4.999774,t_avg=2.50 ns

Using CubeInterp():
    y_avg=4.999709,t_avg=3.43 ns
```

12. Example: Interpolating in Two Dimensions

The NNInterp(), LinInterp(), and CubeInterp() functions can be used to perform interpolations in 2 (and higher) dimensions.

Suppose that $z_{i,j} \equiv z(x_i, y_j)$. To interpolate in 2 dimensions, begin by performing 2 interpolations in the \hat{y} direction, 1 at x_i and 1 at x_{i+1} (shown in green in Fig. 8). Define z_a to be the interpolation at x_i and z_b to be the interpolation at x_{i+1} . Complete the interpolation by interpolating between z_a and z_b in the \hat{x} direction (shown in red in Fig. 8).

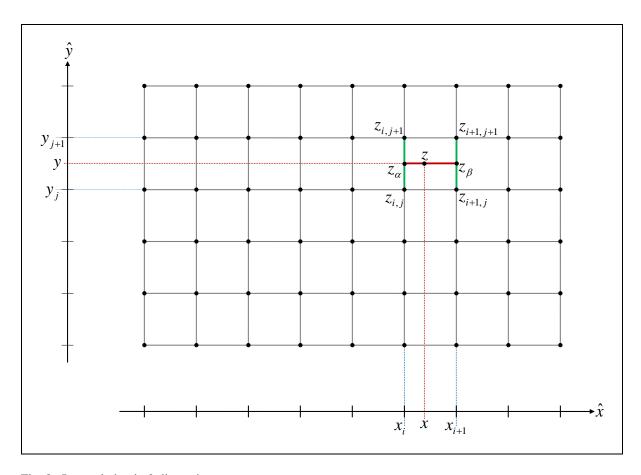


Fig. 8 Interpolating in 2 dimensions

The following example code uses the yBmp namespace to create 3 images (presented in Fig. 9) that show the results of using the NNInterp(), LinInterp(), and CubeInterp() functions to interpolate in 2 dimensions.

```
#include "y_interp.h"//.....yInterp,<cmath>{fabs()}
#include "y_bmp.h"//.....yBmp
unsigned char C[3],//<-----OUTPUT COLOR (CALCULATED)
   double x,//<-----VALUE FOR WHICH A COLOR WILL BE CALCULATED
   double min,double max){//<-----MINIMUM AND MAXIMUM SCALED VALUES</pre>
 if(x<min)\{C[0]=C[1]=C[2]=0;/*&*/return;\}/.....set too small values to black
 if(x>max)\{C[0]=C[1]=C[2]=255;/*&*/return;\}/.....set too large values to white
 x=(1-(x-min)/(max-min))*8;//....remap x to a range of 8 to 0
 C[0]=int((3<x&x<5|x>7) ?-fabs(x/2-3)+1.5:5<=x&x<=7?1:0)*255);//.....blue
 C[1]=int((1<x&&x<3)|5<x&&x<7?-fabs(x/2-2)+1.5:3<=x&&x<=5?1:0)*255);//....green
 C[2]=int((
             x<1 | 3< x&& x<5?-fabs(x/2-1)+1.5:1<=x&& x<=3?1:0)*255);//....red
}//~~~~~YAGENAUT@GMAIL.COM~~~~~~~~~~~~~~LAST~UPDATED~15JUL2014~~~~~
int main(){//<======CREATE AN IMAGE FROM A SURFACE USING INTERPOLATING FUNCTIONS</pre>
 const int m=4,n=4,r=250;//....# of x values, # of y values, pixel scaling
 double X[4]=\{0,1,2,3\},Y[4]=\{0,1,2,3\};
 double Z[m][n]={1,1,1,0 , 1,0,0,1 , 0,1,0,1 , 0,0,0,0};
 unsigned char*I=yBmp::NewImage(m*r,n*r,255);
 for(int q=0;q<m*r;++q)for(int p=0;p<n*r;++p){</pre>
```

```
double x=q*(m-1)*1./(m*r-1), y=p*(n-1)*1./(n*r-1);
  int i=yInterp::BinarySearch(X+1,X+m-1,x)-X,
     j=yInterp::BinarySearch(Y+1,Y+n-1,y)-Y;
  double ZI[2]={yInterp::NNInterp(Y+j,Z[i]+j,y),
     yInterp::NNInterp(Y+j,Z[i+1]+j,y)};
  double z=yInterp::NNInterp(X+i,ZI,x);
  Rainbow(yBmp::GetPixel(I,q,p),z,-.2,1.2);}
yBmp::WriteBmpFile("nearest neighbor.bmp",I);
for(int q=0;q<m*r;++q)for(int p=0;p<n*r;++p){</pre>
  double x=q*(m-1)*1./(m*r-1), y=p*(n-1)*1./(n*r-1);
  int i=yInterp::BinarySearch(X+1,X+m-1,x)-X,
     j=yInterp::BinarySearch(Y+1,Y+n-1,y)-Y;
  double ZI[2]={yInterp::LinInterp(Y+j,Z[i]+j,y),
    yInterp::LinInterp(Y+j,Z[i+1]+j,y)};
  double z=yInterp::LinInterp(X+i,ZI,x);
  Rainbow(yBmp::GetPixel(I,q,p),z,-.2,1.2);}
yBmp::WriteBmpFile("linear.bmp",I);
for(int q=0;q<m*r;++q)for(int p=0;p<n*r;++p){</pre>
  double x=q*(m-1)*1./(m*r-1), y=p*(n-1)*1./(n*r-1);
  int i=yInterp::BinarySearch(X+1,X+m-1,x)-X,
     j=yInterp::BinarySearch(Y+1,Y+n-1,y)-Y;
  double ZI[2]={yInterp::CubeInterp(Y+j,Z[i]+j,y,0.,0.),
     yInterp::CubeInterp(Y+j,Z[i+1]+j,y,0.,0.)};
  double z=yInterp::CubeInterp(X+i,ZI,x,0.,0.);
  Rainbow(yBmp::GetPixel(I,q,p),z,-.2,1.2);}
yBmp::WriteBmpFile("cubic.bmp",I);
//~~~~YAGENAUT@GMAIL.COM~~~~~~~~~~~~~LAST~UPDATED~21JUL2014~~~~~
```

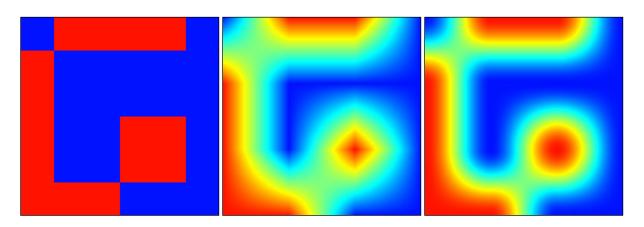


Fig. 9 2-dimensional interpolations using NNInterp() (left), LinInterp() (center), and CubeInterp() (right)

13. Polynomial Curve Fitting: The PolyFit() Function

Suppose that some set of n ordered pairs (x_k, y_k) represents a set of measurements, with x_k being a value for an independent variable and y_k being a value for a dependent variable.

Furthermore, suppose that Eq. 22 represents a best-fit equation for the ordered pairs, where the coefficients (c_i) are unknown.

$$y(x) = c_0 + c_1 x + c_2 x^2 + \dots + c_i x^i + \dots + c_d x^d.$$
(22)

Eq. 23 can be used to find the coefficients for Eq. 22:⁶

$$\begin{bmatrix} n & \sum_{k=0}^{k < n} x_k & \cdots & \sum_{k=0}^{k < n} x_k^d \\ \sum_{k=0}^{k < n} x_k & \sum_{k=0}^{k < n} x_k^2 & \cdots & \sum_{k=0}^{k < n} x_k^{d+1} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \sum_{k=0}^{k < n} x_k^d & \sum_{k=0}^{k < n} x_k^{d+1} & \cdots & \sum_{k=0}^{k < n} x_k^{2d} \\ \sum_{k=0}^{k < n} x_k^d & \sum_{k=0}^{k < n} x_k^{d+1} & \cdots & \sum_{k=0}^{k < n} x_k^{2d} \\ \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} c_0 \\ c_1 \\ \vdots \\ c_d \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \sum_{k=0}^{k < n} y_k \\ \sum_{k=0}^{k < n} x_k y_k \\ \vdots \\ \sum_{k=0}^{k < n} x_k^d y_k \end{bmatrix}$$

$$(23)$$

The PolyFit() function uses Gaussian elimination with backward substitution to solve Eq. 23.

13.1 PolyFit() Code

```
template<class T>void PolyFit(//<=======FITS A POLYNOMIAL TO A SET OF POINTS</pre>
    const T*X,//<-----INDEPENDENT-VARIABLE VALUES (EACH X[i] MUST BE UNIQUE)
   const T*Y,//<------DEPENDENT-VARIABLE VALUES (SAME SIZE AS X)
int n,//<-----NUMBER OF ELEMENTS IN X OR Y</pre>
    int m,//<-----NUMBER OF COEFFICIENTS IN THE BEST-FIT POLYNOMIAL
    T*C){//<----STORAGE FOR COEFFICIENTS (SIZE=m) y=C[0]+C[1]*x+C[2]*x^2+...
 T^*A=new T^*[m];/*<-*/for(int i=0,j,k;i<m;++i)\{//...augmented matrix
    for(A[i]=new T[m+1],j=0;j<m+1;++j)A[i][j]=0;</pre>
    for(k=0;k<n;++k)for(A[i][m]+=pow(X[k],i)*Y[k],j=0;j<m;++j)</pre>
      A[i][j] += pow(X[k], i+j);
 for(int i=1,j,k;i<m;++i)for(k=0;k<i;++k)for(j=m;j>=0;--j)//.........Gaussian
     A[i][j]-=A[i][k]*A[k][j]/A[k][k];//
 for(int i=m-1,j;i>=0;--i)for(C[i]=A[i][m]/A[i][i],j=i+1;j<m;++j)//..backward</pre>
   C[i]-=C[j]*A[i][j]/A[i][i];//
                                                                    substitution
 for(int i=0;i<m;++i)delete[]A[i];/*&*/delete[]A;</pre>
}//~~~YAGENAUT@GMAIL.COM~~~~~~~~~~~~LAST~UPDATED~21JUL2014~~~~~
```

13.2 PolyFit() Template Classes

T is typically a floating-point data type.

13.3 PolyFit() Parameters

- **X X** points to an array that is used to store the **n** x_k values that are specified in Eq. 23, where $\mathbf{X} = \{x_0, x_1, \dots, x_k, \dots, x_{n-1}\}$. Each x_k value must be unique.
- **Y** Points to an array that is used to store the **n** y_k values that are specified in Eq. 23, where $\mathbf{Y} = \{ y_0, y_1, \dots, y_k, \dots, y_{n-1} \}$.
- **n** specifies n, the number of x_k (or y_k) values.

- m specifies the number of coefficients in the array that is pointed to by \mathbb{C} . Thus, $\mathbf{m} = d + 1$, where d is the degree of the fitting polynomial (see Eq. 22).
- C points to storage for an array that is used to store the c_i coefficients $(\mathbf{C} = \{c_0, c_1, \dots, c_i, \dots, c_d\})$. C must point to an array with storage for at least \mathbf{m} elements. The elements pointed to by \mathbf{C} are calculated by the PolyFit() function.

Note that if **m** is too large, or if the values pointed to by **X** are too close together, then the PolyFit() function may return coefficients that do not accurately describe a best-fit curve. It is always best to plot the best-fit curve against measured data to verify the quality of the fit. It is also a good idea to calculate the coefficient of determination (R^2), which is a measurement of the quality of the fit.

$$R^{2} \equiv 1 - \frac{\sum_{k=0}^{k
(24)$$

where

$$\bar{y} \equiv \frac{1}{n} \sum_{k=0}^{k < n} y_i$$
 (25)

 R^2 values are typically in the interval [0,1], with 1 indicating a perfect fit.

13.4 PolyFit() Simple Example

The following example first defines a polynomial, then uses that polynomial to calculate a set of (x_k, y_k) ordered pairs. The PolyFit() function is used to calculate the coefficients for a polynomial that best fits the set of ordered pairs. The calculated coefficients are shown to be identical (at least to 6 decimal places) to the coefficients of the original polynomial.

OUTPUT:

```
0.000000, -308.000000
1.000000, -162.000000
2.000000, -70.000000
3.000000, -20.000000
4.000000, 2.000000
5.000000, 2.000000
6.000000, 2.000000
7.000000, 0.000000
8.000000, 70.000000
9.000000, 70.000000
-308.000000
-33.000000
2.0000000
```

14. Example: Exponential Fits Using the PolyFit() Function

The PolyFit() function can be used to fit nonpolynomial equations to measured data. Suppose Eq. 26 is suspected to be a good fit for some set of data points (x_k, y_k) .

$$y = Ae^{Bx}. (26)$$

The PolyFit() function can be used to find the parameters A and B.

Begin by defining $y' = \ln(y)$. Next, use the PolyFit() function to find c_0 and c_1 (the parameters for a straight line) for the data set (x_k, y_k') . Thus,

$$y' = \ln(y) = c_0 + c_1 x. (27)$$

Solving for y,

$$y = e^{c_0 + c_1 x} = e^{c_0} e^{c_1 t}. (28)$$

Thus,

$$A = e^{c_0}$$
 and $B = c_1$. (29)

The following example code uses the PolyFit() function to fit Eq. 26 to beginning-of-year values for the Dow Jones Industrial Average for the decade 1986–1995. Values were obtained from the file "^dji_d.csv," which was downloaded from http://stooq.com. The yIo2 namespace was used to read and parse the data file. The results are presented in Fig. 10.

```
#include <cstdio>//.....freopen(),printf(),stdout
#include <vector>//......vector
#include "y interp.h"//.....yInterp,<cmath>{exp(),pow()}
#include "y_io_2.h"//.....yIo
int main(){//<======FITTING AN EXPONENTIAL EQUATION USING THE PolyFit() FUNCTION</pre>
 //-----READ AND PARSE FILE-----
 char*s=yIo2::ReadTextFile("^dji d.csv");
 std::vector<std::vector<char*> >S=yIo2::Parse2D(s,"/ \t-,");
 //----INTERPRET DATES AND VALUES-----
 std::vector<double>X,Y;
 for(int i=2,y;(y=atoi(S[i][0]))<1996;++i)</pre>
   if(y!=atoi(S[i-1][0])&&y>1984)X.push_back(y),Y.push_back(atof(S[i][6]));
 delete[]s;
             ------PERFORM EXPONENTIAL FIT------
 //----
 std::vector<double>Yp(X.size());
 for(int i=0, m=X.size();i<m;++i)Yp[i]=log(Y[i]);</pre>
 double*a=&X[0],*b=&Yp[0];
 double C[2];/*<-*/yInterp::PolyFit(a,b,X.size(),2,C);</pre>
 double y bar=0; /*<-*/for(int k=0; k<10; ++k) y bar+=Y[k]; /*\&*/y bar/=10;
 double SS_res=0,SS_tot=0;/*<-*/for(int k=0;k<10;++k)</pre>
   SS res+=pow(Y[k]-exp(C[0]+C[1]*X[k]),2.),SS tot+=pow(Y[k]-y bar,2.);
 printf("A=%E\nB=%f\nR^2=%f\n",exp(C[0]),C[1],1-SS_res/SS_tot);
 freopen("exponential_fit.csv","w",stdout);
 for(int i=1,n=X.size();i<n;++i)</pre>
   printf("%f,%f,%f\n",X[i],Y[i],exp(C[0]+C[1]*X[i]));
 //~~~~~YAGENAUT@GMAIL.COM~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~LAST~UPDATED~21JUL2014~~~~
```

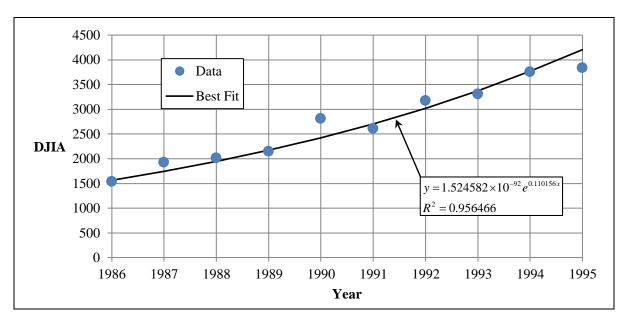
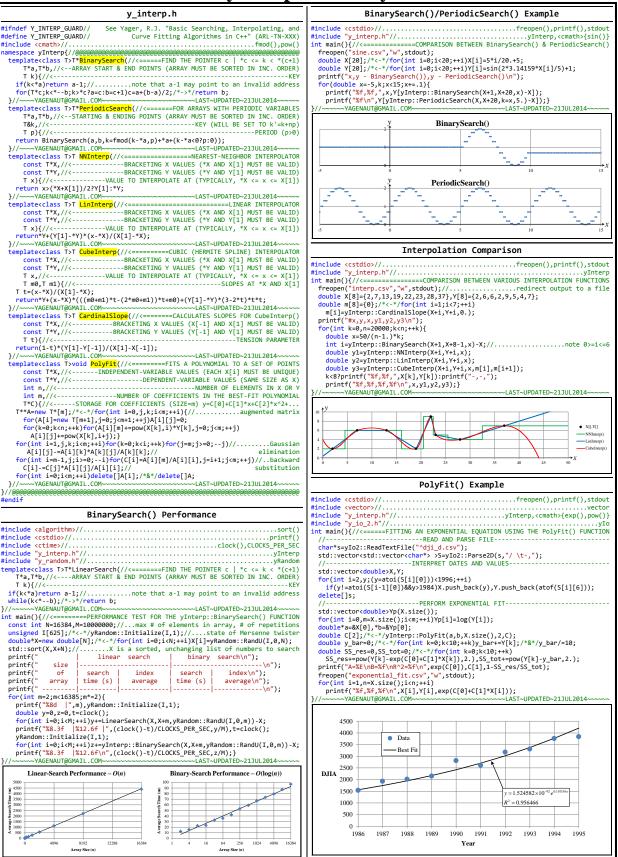


Fig. 10 Best-fit line calculated by the PolyFit() function

15. Code Summary

The following summary sheet presents the yInterp namespace, which contains the BinarySearch(), PeriodicSearch(), NNInterp(), LinInterp(), CubeInterp(), CardinalSlope(), and PolyFit() functions.

yInterp Summary



16. References

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- 7. "^dji_d.csv". [accessed 2014 Jun 19] http://stooq.com/q/d/?s=^dji.

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